



NOAA IN THE GREAT LAKES

From the water below to the atmosphere above, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) monitors and predicts changes in the Great Lakes region to protect lives and property, promote economic vitality, and manage coastal resources.

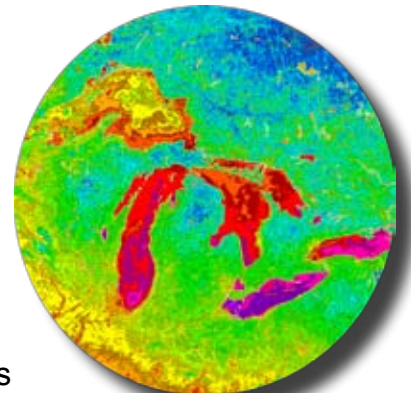
...from weather warnings to climate forecasts

...from satellites surveying the earth to navigation charts at your fingertips

...from Great Lakes research to coastal protection and management

NOAA in the Great Lakes works with regional partners, other federal agencies, states, cities, tribes, and industry, in conjunction with efforts of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.

Freshwater: The Great Lakes hold 90 percent of the United States' total freshwater. NOAA provides important tools and information for decision-making that affect this important global resource. NOAA in the Great Lakes addresses issues of human and ecosystem health, aquatic invasive species, integrated water resources science and services, water levels, and water quality.



Great Lakes Coasts: The Great Lakes, America's fourth coast, include more than 5,000 miles of dynamic shoreline. NOAA in the Great Lakes is committed to working on science-based solutions for the most critical problems facing our lakes. NOAA addresses the needs of our coastal communities, restores coastal habitats, provides navigation services, monitors toxic contamination, and preserves maritime heritage. NOAA collaborates with partners across the Great Lakes region to improve the quality of life for its residents.



Climate: Climate change is impacting the Great Lakes at the regional and local level. As a federal agency, NOAA in the Great Lakes is bringing to bear all of its national expertise and capability in climate research to help regional decision-makers make science-based decisions with the best available information.

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Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy

The Great Lakes are under significant stresses. Years of degradation from the build-up of toxic contamination, coastal wetlands destruction, invasive species, and new threats from a changing climate have left the Great Lakes at a tipping point. Fortunately, we know many of the solutions to these serious threats, and NOAA is working hard to provide the information

and services needed to achieve them. As a part of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, NOAA and its partners are implementing the comprehensive Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



This \$475 million Initiative builds upon 5 years of work of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and stakeholders, guided by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. This multi-agency Initiative is funding 16 federal organizations, including NOAA, to fund Great Lakes specific activities addressing:

- Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern
- Invasive Species
- Nearshore Health & Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration
- Accountability, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships.

This investment in restoring the Great Lakes is an investment in our heritage, environment, and economy.

Engaging Stakeholders

NOAA is a science-to-service agency, transforming its research into products and services that people use everyday. Knowing and understanding the unique needs of those in the Great Lakes is an important part of NOAA's work and service in the region. NOAA has created a Great Lakes Regional Team to collaborate with partners across the region and build relationships with its residents. Since its first listening session in 2007, NOAA in the Great Lakes has been capturing the collective voice of the region and bringing this information to the leaders of our nation.



NOAA's engagement in the Great Lakes is bringing together diverse groups from all sectors of the Great Lakes to discuss NOAA's products, services, and research; improve information and decision-making; and facilitate action. Through collaboration, NOAA's Great Lakes Regional Team seeks to develop and enhance geographically specific solutions to better serve the Great Lakes community and the nation.

Working Together

NOAA's focus in the Great Lakes is possible through its numerous offices, programs and partnerships located across the region. This collaboration includes:

- 40 NOAA Facilities
- 23 Weather Forecast Offices
- 8 Geodetic Survey Representatives
- 7 State College Sea Grant Programs
- 7 Coastal Zone Management Programs
- 2 Cooperative Institutes
- Midwestern Regional Climate Center
- National Marine Sanctuary at Thunder Bay, MI
- National Estuarine Research Reserve at Old Woman's Creek, OH
- Great Lakes Observing System Regional Association

And, our greatest resource – the 880+ employees located in the Great Lakes.